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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,840	10/30/2003	Rainer Weisbrodt	WSP219US	9134

7590 12/15/2006
Simpson & Simpson PLLC
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

EXAMINER

PICKARD, ALISON K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3673

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No. 10/696,840	Applicant(s) WEISBRODT ET AL.	
	Examiner Alison K. Pickard	Art Unit 3673	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Alison K. Pickard. (3) _____
 (2) C. Paul Maliszewski. (4) _____

Date of Interview: 13 November 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 2.

Identification of prior art discussed: all of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant submitted some possible amendments to overcome the current rejections (see attached). Applicant and examiner discussed some additional limitations, such as adding the first surface is directly contacting or adjacent the first planar surface and that the first planar surface is disposed entirely beyond the second plane ring. If such changes were also made, it appears this would overcome at least the current rejections, but would also be subject to further consideration and update..

for interview only

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

To: Examiner Alison K. Pickard
Group Art Unit: 3673

Company: United States Patent and Trademark Office

Fax #: 571-273-7062

Serial # 10/696,840

From: C. Paul Maliszewski

Date: November 7, 2006

Pages: 3 (including cover sheet)

Rc: Proposed claim amendments

Message:

I will call you at 1PM on Monday, November 13 to discuss. Please call in the meanwhile if you have any questions. Thanks.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The accompanying message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may represent an attorney-client communication or otherwise contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, any duplication or distribution of this communication is unauthorized and prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the entire communication to us at the above address by mail at our expense.

If any part of this fax transmission is missing or not clearly received, please call and ask for Renee at (716) 626-1564.

Application No. 10,696,840
Proposed claim amendments
November 7, 2006
Page 1 of 2

for interview only

Examiner Pickard,

I think we can agree that the present invention sealing ring, for example, as shown in Figures 1-3, differs from the ring taught by Sheesley or Moyers in that there is no valley, groove, or indentation between the flat "wings" of the ring and the curved center portion.

We propose the following claim amendments to more clearly recite this difference:

2. (currently amended) A flat sealing ring (1) for producing a fluid-tight coupling of two surfaces which are to be sealed against one another by means of a contact force, the ring (1) having an elastically deformable base ring (2), a stiffening ring (3, 3', 3'') for limiting compression of the base ring (2), and at least one protective layer (4), wherein said base ring (2) comprises a core of elastically deformable material (6), wherein a cross-section of said core comprises a center section portion with first and second wing sections extending from said center section portion, wherein each said first and second wing sections comprises respective first and second planar surfaces parallel to a first ring plane and extending directly from said center section, wherein the respective first planar surfaces lie on a second ring plane and the respective second planar surfaces lie on a third ring plane, different than the second ring plane, wherein the center section is at least partially disposed between the second and third planes and extends from between the second and third planes to beyond the second and third planes, wherein said center section comprises a first surface continuous with said respective first planar surfaces and disposed beyond said second plane ring, wherein said center section includes a second surface continuous with said respective second planar surfaces and disposed beyond said third plane ring wherein the at least one protective layer (4) covers at least a portion of the base ring (2), wherein the stiffening ring is provided at at least one of the inner circumferential edge of the base ring (2) or the outer circumferential edge of the base ring (2), wherein the stiffening ring (3, 3', 3'') comprises hard plastic or metal and has, at least perpendicularly to the ring plane, a lesser deformability, or greater firmness, than the base

Application No. 10,696,840
Proposed claim amendments
November 7, 2006
Page 2 of 2

ring (2), and wherein the height of the stiffening ring perpendicularly to the ring plane is less than the greatest height of the base ring (2) perpendicularly to the ring plane.